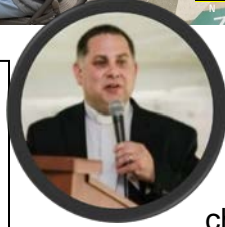


# TRINITY U.C.C. SEPTEMBER PARISH POST



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR



**Dear Friends,**

Where did the summer go? I hope your summer was filled with fun, adventure, and relaxation! Even before we have turned the page in our calendars or scrolled to September on our phone's calendar, we have seen children climbing the steps of the bus and heading off to school! In just a few days, the church building will be filled with excitement as the children return to our preschool.

I am excited about the start of our Christian Education ministry. We had a wonderful VBS in July that helped us learn more about familiar biblical stories and characters. As we prepare for Rally Day and the beginning of a new Sunday School year, I hope we can build on all that we learned during VBS!

The theme that I have chosen for Rally Day is "Growing Together in God's Love". It is important for us to come together on a weekly basis for study and worship. The community of faith helps each of us grow in our walk with God. In one of my recent weekly reflections, I shared some words from Rev. Dr. Craig Dykstra, a pastor and professor who died in June. In 1999, Dr. Dykstra wrote the book *Growing in the Life of Faith: Education and Christian Practices*. His thesis is that the community is necessary for people to grow in their faith. Dykstra wrote:

***Faith and the life of faith are communal before they are individual... The deep, almost physical knowledge of the love of God in Jesus Christ that constitutes faith is first of all and above all the whole community's knowledge. The presence of Jesus Christ is a presence in, to, and through the community of Jesus Christ. The new life in the Spirit, the new seeing, the vocation, the ministry, the suffering, and the perseverance are not simply the sum of individual new lives, visions, and vocations. Rather, all these are first and last the community's. The new life and all that comes with it are features of the community of Jesus Christ in every epoch, all around the globe, in every kind of cultural situation, including our own.***

There are plenty of opportunities for us to grow together in God's love at Trinity Church. I invite you to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 for the various classes (a list is provided in this newsletter) or sign-up for a book study or attend our grief group sessions. Let's grow together in God's love!

**Blessings,  
Pastor Chris**

**Parish Post Deadline:**  
3rd Monday of the month

## **TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:**

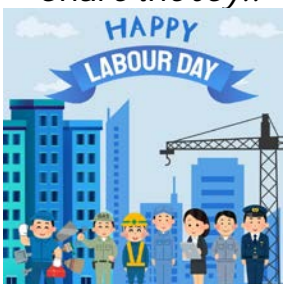
All will know the love of God through the teachings of Jesus!!

### **Trinity U.C.C. is called by God to:**

- Share God's love with our community
- Serve God's children
- Bring healing and wholeness to those in need
- Share the Gospel in liturgy, music and study

**The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13)**

*Catch the Vision,  
Share the Joy!!*



## TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2340 State Street  
East Petersburg, PA 17520  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 9:00-2:00  
[www.trinityeastpete.org](http://www.trinityeastpete.org)  
(717) 569-1632/ 569-0592

### STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Chris Rankin, **Pastor**  
717-575-0286(cell)  
[chris@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:chris@trinityeastpete.org)

The Rev. Dr. Carrie Call,  
**Covenanted Minister of Mission**  
[ccall@pccucc.org](mailto:ccall@pccucc.org)

The Rev. Harry Royer,  
**Pastor Emeritus**

Michael Slechta, **Director of Music**  
[music@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:music@trinityeastpete.org)

Christine Oetama, **Supply  
Organist (through October 5)**  
[christine.oetama@gmail.com](mailto:christine.oetama@gmail.com)

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Michael Querry, **Sexton**  
[mequerry@gmail.com](mailto:mequerry@gmail.com)

### CONSISTORY/OTHER LEADERS

Jeff Hackenberger, **President**  
(717) 656-4815

Sue Bowman, **Vice President**  
(717) 581-3464

Bob Kilgore, **Secretary**  
(717) 581-1980

Denise Pfeiffer, **Treasurer**  
(717) 569-1762

Dan Otthofer, **Financial Secretary**  
(717)-203-6578

Pastor Rankin, **Chair of Elders**  
(717) 575-0286(cell)

George DeLong, **Vice Chair of  
Elders**  
(717) 569-6254

Lon Wible, **Chair of Deacons**  
(717) 471-1750

Nevin Cooley, **Chair of Property**  
(717) 371-0346

## TREASURE IN CLAY JARS by Rev. Jack Esbenshade

In the month of August the Gospel lessons from Luke focused on very practical matters. For two of the Sundays we heard about a farmer who had a bountiful crop and tore down his barns in order to build new ones so that he could store his harvest. The following Sunday the text was about where your treasure is, there is your heart also.

These readings are not criticizing wealth or the good management of money. But they do highlight what we think about money and possessions and how much importance we place upon them.

One preacher noted that Jesus speaks more about possessions than he does about prayer or faith. (I did some research and while he is technically correct, the differences are slight). Needless to say, how we address our possessions and our wealth does reflect upon our basic values.

And it also underscores that for people of faith the question isn't 'How do I get more?', but rather 'How much is truly enough?'

**CHURCH GIVING CARDS:** Since some members give online or on a monthly basis, they don't have anything to place in the offering plate during worship. Pastor Rankin recently shared with the Consistory an idea that he received from a church he visited for a concert. They have laminated cards in the pews for those people to place in the offering plate as their act of worship (you can see a picture below). Look for these cards placed in the pews! If you have any questions speak to Pastor Rankin, Jeff Hackenberger (Consistory President), or Lon Wible (Chair of Deacons).



**GRIEF GROUP:** The next session will either be September 23 or 30 at 1:30 p.m. We continue to read Francis Weller's *The Wild Edge of Sorrow: Rituals of Renewal and the Sacred work of Grief*. If you would like to participate in the grief group, contact Pastor Chris or the Church office.

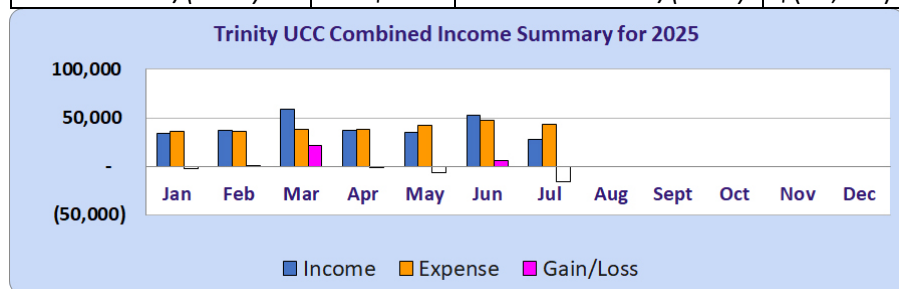
SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS		
09/03	Lori Gold	(717) 314-1830
09/12	Dr. Rebecca Wagner	(717)-333-7410
09/12	Michael Wagner	(717) 569-5167
09/14	Denise Huggins	(717) 626-5689
09/14	Christine Oetama	(717) 627-2278
09/15	Scott DeLong	(717) 450-3807
09/17	Christine Eyer	(717) 951-3130
09/17	Jill Otthofer	(717) 203-3688
09/17	Beth Bossert	(717) 413-0706
09/18	Lon Wible	(717)471-1750
09/22	Sawyer Eisenhour	(717) 560-1536
09/22	Audria Husted	
09/23	Christopher Schwankl	(717) 733-5326
09/25	Pastor Emeritus Harry Royer	(717) 627-3672
09/25	Dr. Randall Zachman	(717) 869-6852
09/25	Carol Kratz	(717) 490-5126
09/27	Marcia Eisenhour	(717) 560-1536
09/27	Dr. Bruce Rodenberger	(717) 490-8786
09/28	Sarah Miller	(717) 725-9866
09/29	Aaron Shenk	(717) 330-7933

## Devotionals

We have *These Days* for July-September on the table across from the church office. If you need a devotional mailed to you, contact Carol in the church office.

## News from the Finance Committee

YTD TOTAL INCOME	\$282,165	July INCOME	\$27,835
YTD TOTAL EXPENSES	\$281,750	July EXPENSE	\$43,631
YTD GAIN/(LOSS)	\$ 415	MONTHLY GAIN/(LOSS)	\$(15,796)



## Online Giving Information

For several years, members have been able to make recurring donations online in lieu of paying cash/checks or by mail. Online donations save the cost of a check and envelope and if using the recurring feature, remembering weekly to prepare your envelope. Presently we have a few giving units who give to the church online either weekly or recurring.

We want to remind you that there is a small fee when giving online. You'll have the opportunity to help cover the cost of processing when you give. Please know that this is **100% optional**, but we appreciate your partnership in making your gift go as far as possible to impact our mission. **Your contribution towards the processing fee will be recorded on your giving statement and will also help the church's budget.**

In 2022, we added a feature on our website to give you the opportunity to cover the added cost of giving online. **The costs are 1.05% when paying by check through your bank or 3.05% when paying by credit/debit card.** There will be a check-off block to use if you wish to cover your transaction cost in addition to your contribution.

Here's the instructions for making contributions on Trinity's website....[trinityeastpete.org](http://trinityeastpete.org)....**RESOURCES, PAY ON-LINE**

## Calling all Singers and Ringers 2025-2026 Season Starts

September 8, 7:00 - 8:00 PM SOT Choir  
September 15, 8:15 - 8:45 PM Canticle Ringers

**\*New Singers and Ringers Welcome**  
**Contact Michael or Dina Slechta**





September Scriptures	
6	Deut. 31:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33
12	Exo. 32:7-14; Psalm 51:1-10; 1 Tim. 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10
19	Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Tim. 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13
26	Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Psalm 146; 1 Tim. 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

## Men of Trinity (M.O.T.) Breakfast Meeting!

The men will NOT be meeting at the Family Fare Restaurant for breakfast in September. We will resume on October 4. This is open to all men of the congregation! You are encouraged to invite other men to the breakfast.

## PRAYER SHAWL

**MINISTRY:** The Knit in God's Love Prayer Shawl will begin meeting on Tuesday, September 16. They will continue meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. Contact Betty Tyndall for more information.

## NEW DIRECTORY:

The new directory is out. Look for copies on both floors of the building. If you need one mailed to you, contact the church office!

## DIRECTORY CORRECTION:

**Kevin Daly**  
(717) 475-6250



**Annual Breakfast & Ribbon-Cutting** ♥

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**Come for breakfast! Celebrate an astonishing year of supporting and empowering tens of thousands of neighbors and cut the ribbon for our new Outreach Center.**

**Wednesday, September 10th**  
**8 am**

**Lancaster County Food Hub**  
**812 North Queen Street, Lancaster**

**Doors Open: 7:30am**

**Presentation & Breakfast: 8:00 am**

Trinity Church is sponsoring a table of 8 for the Lancaster Food Hub's breakfast! We have 5 seats already reserved, so there's 3 more seats available! Contact Pastor Chris if you are interested in attending.



**Thursday, September 18, at 1:00 pm**

It's time to have fun and play Pinochle! Everyone is invited to come on Thursday, September 18, at 1:00 pm. Please sign up on the sheet across from the office. Bring a snack to share. We're happy to teach if you are new to this card game.

**BOOK STUDY:** Pastor Chris is planning to do book study in the coming months via Google Meet. We will be reading Henri Nouwen's book *With Open Hands: Bring Prayer Into Your Life*. Contact the church office or Pastor Chris if you are interested in participating.

## ORGANIST SEARCH UPDATE

The Consistory recently approved the Music Committee's recommendation to hire Mr. Phil High as our new organist. Phil is currently the organist at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Lancaster. He will begin serving at Trinity on Sunday, October 12. Look for more information about Phil in the October Parish Post!

Christine Oetama, our organist from 2016-2023, will be our supply organist through October 5.

## WORSHIP SERVICE INFORMATION

We will continue to stream the 7:45 a.m. service on the Trinity Facebook page and later upload it to our website. The Technology Committee is currently working on moving our streaming to YouTube. More information about this change is forthcoming!

Holy Communion will be celebrated every week at the 7:45 a.m. service and at the 9:30 a.m. service on September 7 and the 10:30 a.m. service on September 21.

## NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN JUNE

### Eugene Kopp:



I was born in 1939 into what I feel was one of the greater generations. Learned to work at a very young age on my grandparent's farm. I was told I must work to earn my keep. I milked our two cows, made butter in a large hand turned churn, cleaned pig pen's, hoed tobacco, etc. I started in a one room school at age of 6, walked 3 miles each way. We had a spring house for refrigeration and a generator for lights only. Since there was no indoor plumbing, an out house was a normal thing in those days. All these, and many other things prepared me for a full life ahead.

I graduated from Manor Township High School in 1957, from there I went to the School of Hard Knox and had a very fulfilling life. I worked for RCA for 37 years before retiring in 2001. Spent most of my retirement winters in Quepos, Costa Rica until 3 years ago when I gave up my studio apartment.

As I visited Trinity Church, I noticed that the Bible was preached, the congregation was welcoming and accepting, and also having a church school which all made me feel very comfortable & welcome.

Gene and his wife, Cathy, were married in Trinity's sanctuary on February 14. George DeLong is serving as Gene's spiritual friend.

### Linda Lockard:



I was born in Lancaser, raised in East Petersburg and graduated from Hempfield in 1971 (with Donna Geisler). I am a semi-retired RN, after working Labor and Deliveery for 34 years. I continue to teach Childbirth classes at UPMC.

I have 4 grown children; Derek, Darin, Staci & Amy. I also have 11 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

I was married to Lloyd Lockard for 51 years before his passing in 2023.

I now live in Neffsville and love to do crafts, read, and hang out with family and friends at the pool.

Besides knowing some people from growing up in East Petersburg, I am also related to Pastor Chris...his grandfather and my grandmother were siblings.

When I visited Trinity, I felt comfortable & it seemed like I joined family. Donna Geisler is serving as Linda's spiritual friend.



**RALLY DAY** will be on Sunday, September 14. The theme will be “Growing Together in God’s Love”! We will return to our regular schedule:

7:45—Worship with Holy Communion

9:00---Christian Education Classes for all ages

10:00---Koinonia (fellowship time)

10:30---Worship (Holy Communion twice a month)

Members of Trinity’s Christian Education ministry recently met with Pastor Rankin and Pastor Illick (from Zion Lutheran) to discuss how the two congregations can partner together for Christian Education. We are excited to explore some ways to work together in the coming year!

**The Sunday School classes will begin on September 21. Here’s information about the different classes:**

1. **The Children’s Class** will meet in the downstairs classroom and will be using the Spark lectionary-based curriculum.
2. **The Youth Class** will meet in the side room by the kitchen in Isenberg Hall and use resources from the Bible Project website for their curriculum through November
3. **The Wired Word Class** will be meet in the choir room. Each week they will have a Bible study lesson linked to the latest headlines and current events using appropriate scriptures. Participants can opt in or out of receiving the lesson by email before Sunday. To opt in before the first session, contact Diane Rice with your email address.
4. **The Adult Bible Class** will meet in the front of Isenberg Hall and will be studying the Gospel of Luke through the Kerygma study series.



## SAVE THE DATES

**CHURCH PICNIC:** The Parish Life Committee is planning to hold the annual church picnic at the Rapho Township Park (960 Strickler Rd., Mount Joy) on Saturday, September 6 from 4-6:30 p.m. The theme for the picnic is a luau! Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office.



**THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE IS PLANNING TO HAVE A FLOAT AGAIN THIS YEAR!**

There is a sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office for those who want to ride the float and those who are willing to donate candy. We are looking for hard candy or gummy candy (chocolate often melts)! We will assemble the bags of candy during Rally Day!

**UPCOMING LEADERSHP SEMINAR:** The Pastor-Parish Committee will be sponsoring another leadership seminar in Isenberg Hall on **Saturday, October 11 from 9-11:00 a.m.** Myka Kennedy Stephens will be returning to do a seminar on leadership strengths. **Please sign-up by September 14 so that we can order the materials for the seminar.** This seminar is for all members of the Consistory and the committees/boards of Trinity Church. Speak with Pastor Rankin for more information!



**WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION IN THE OCTOBER PARISH POST!!!**



Dear Trinity U.C.C.,

I want to thank all of you who sent me Birthday wishes in various ways on my 94<sup>th</sup> birthday – you helped make my day special. Thanks again.

*John Barr*

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Thank you to the Men's Choir and their accompanist, Carmen Richards, for sharing their talents with the congregation on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup>. Those of us in attendance that Sunday thought that their offertory selection "Everyday is A Gift From the Lord" was sung very well and it inspired those of us in attendance.

It would be delightful to hear the Men's Choir again in the near future. Bravo!

*Written by one of the people in attendance*

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Dear friends from Trinity United Church of Christ,

Thank you for your generous contribution to support our life-saving work with refugees and immigrants. We appreciate it more than ever in these challenging times.

For more than seven decades, the CWS family has welcomed and served refugees. Today, we are face with the worst global displacement crisis since World War II. Men, women, and children are on the run, desperately seeking safety. They are resilient, and we are proud to connect them to the supplies and services they need to build those safe lives in the United States and in host communities worldwide. But they are also vulnerable, especially in times of uncertainty like these.

Your action in giving to CWS helps us to reaffirm our efforts. You have lent your voice to the call for welcome and acceptance. Thank you for being part of this movement. Your generosity is a step towards building a better world for all of our neighbors. We deeply appreciate your support and look forward to our continued partnership in the days and weeks ahead.

May God bless you for your kindness,

*Rick Santos*, President & CEO Church World Service

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Dear Rev. Dr. Rankin & Congregation Members,

We are so grateful to Trinity United Church of Christ for supporting Milagro House! The gift of \$485, received on June 13, will directly support our mission to provide education, housing, and support services to women and their children who would otherwise be experiencing homelessness.

Milagro House is Lancaster County's only residential program for mothers facing homelessness that places education at its core. Our program empowers women to find a way to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their children, fostering lasting independence and transforming individual lives and family for generations to come.

Thank you again for your generosity. We look forward to advancing this vital work with your continued partnership.

With gratitude,

*Ashley Bievenour*, Fundraising & Development Director



Dear Trinity U.C.C.,

On behalf of the East Petersburg Fire Department, we would like to express a great thank you and appreciation for the donation that you and your congregation made to us. This donation as always will be put to great use. We appreciate being able to serve you and our community. We also appreciate your prayers and continues support from Trinity United Church of Christ.

Sincerely,

*Coral R. Latsha*, East Petersburg Fire Department

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### Gratitude for Camp Scholarships



Thank you, Trinity, for providing church camp scholarships, for my grandchildren Gabriella (Ella) age 11 and Samuel age 9. They had a wonderful camp experience this summer at Kirchenwald Arts and Crafts camp! When Ella and Samuel were picked up at the end of the week, their parents received enthusiastic feedback: “everyone was so nice” “the meals were delicious”, and “the pool and singing around the campfire were fun “. They brought home creative projects, the product of many fun hours creating art out of natural materials found around camp.



*Rev. Sandy Morris*



Dear Trinity Members

We thank you for supporting our summer camp experience at Nawakwa (Rachel & Andrew) and Hartman Center (Zach, Rachel, and Andrew) through the Camp Scholarship Fund. These are wonderful opportunities to grow together in God's love! We had so much fun this summer and we look forward to next summer!



*Pastor Chris, Anne, Zach, Rachel, and Andrew*



**CHURCH PICNIC:** The Parish Life Committee is planning the annual church picnic at the Rapho Township Park (960 Strickler Rd., Mount Joy) on Saturday, September 6 from 4-6:30 p.m. The theme for the picnic is a luau! Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office.



## WELCOME



Logan Joseph Bair was born on June 29. He is the son of Ryan Bair and Lexi Weeber and the grandson of Rich & Pam Weeber.



Emma Delilah Daly was born on August 20. She is the daughter of Kevin & Julie Daly, granddaughter of Leo & Lori Daly, and the great-granddaughter of Marge Burger.

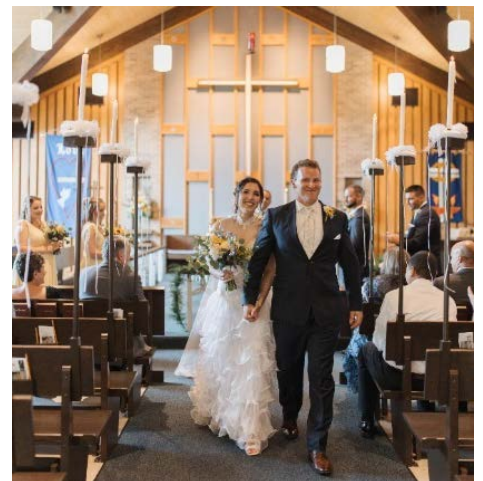
**God's blessings upon Logan and Emma!**



Katie Weeber and Andrew Hicks were married on June 7 at Bohemia Manor Farm in Chesapeake City, MD.

Justin Lichtenwalner & McKenzie Rhone were married on July 11 at Trinity Church with Pastor Rankin officiating.

**God's blessings upon Katie & Andrew and Justin & McKenzie!**





## VBS PICTURES

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with, donated to, or attended VBS in July. A special thanks to Dina Slechta and Diane Rice for serving as the VBS directors again this year! The VBS mission project was the Wycliffe Bible Translators. Look for a final report in the October Parish Post.





## FRIENDSHIP FEST PICTURES

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Friendship Fest on July 13. We raised \$440 for the Trinity Preschool (we raised \$354 in 2024).



## **UPDATE ON THE KEYSTONE CONFERENCE**

With full hearts and joy filled spirits, we are thrilled to announce the historic passage of the motion to create the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ! By a vote of 98% (640 in favor, 8 opposed, 6 abstentions), delegates of the 35th General Synod approved the realignment of our Conference boundaries. This moment marks the culmination of several years of faithful discernment, courageous conversation, and a shared vision for the future of our ministry in Pennsylvania. Together, we have dared to believe that God is still speaking — and calling us into something new.

The creation of the Keystone Conference is more than a structural shift; it is a bold witness to our commitment to covenant, collaboration, and the continuing call of the Holy Spirit. We honor the legacy of those who have gone before us in each of our four Conferences and rejoice in the new pathways and possibilities now open to us. We give thanks for the Keystone Working Group, Conference staffs, and all who labored, prayed, and dreamed this into being. And we move forward with gratitude, humility, and a renewed passion for the Gospel.

We trust that the One who began a good work among us will be faithful to complete it.

In faith and hope,

**The Rev. David Ackerman, Conference Minister of the Penn West Conference**

**The Rev. Dr. Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister of the Penn Northeast Conference**

**The Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, Conference Minister of the Penn Central Conference**

**The Rev. Bill Worley, Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference**

## **RECENT DECISIONS MADE BY THE NEW KEYSTONE CONFERENCE BOARD**

(adapted from an email sent to the churches and pastors from Rev. Dr. Carrie Call)

On August 1, something momentous occurred: the first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Keystone Conference of the UCC! This all-day meeting took place at St. Thomas Church in Linglestown and we accomplished a wide variety of items. The 16-member Board spent time in fellowship, shared stories, and got to know one another.

First on the agenda, officers were chosen. The positions of Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer and Secretary were filled by a member of each current Conference. They are Dave DeRemer (Chair, PNEC); DiAnn Baxley (Vice-chair, PCC); Deborah Long (Treasurer, PW), and Bob Ames (Secretary, PSEC). The new Board worked well together immediately.

They approved staff position descriptions followed by the affirmation of hiring most of the administrative staff: Sue Creswell (Executive Admin), Brea Rarick (Admin Region 1 & data-keeper), Paul Keller (Admin Region 2 & social media), Andrea Kopak (PT Admin Region 3).

The Board also elected Rev. Dr. Carrie Call to serve as the Transitional Executive Conference Minister (TECM) alongside Rev. Kevin McLemore (Region 1), Rev. Dr. Nora Foust (2), and Rev. David Ackerman (3) as Transitional Regional Conference Ministers (RCMs). The remaining 2 part-time leadership positions (one for youth and one for adults) and the Bookkeeper will be named by September.



The new Board went on to vote on the location of the Keystone office (Harrisburg), discuss any lingering Constitution and Bylaws questions, choose a temporary nominating committee to create a slate for the November 22 state-wide business meeting, adopt an investment policy, review and accept the Budget for 2026 (to be voted on by all of us on November 22), choose the new Keystone Logo (from 4 finalists submitted by members across the Conferences – to be revealed soon), and chose dates for upcoming monthly meetings and a board retreat in January. Finally, we all reviewed a list of remaining financial, governance, and other tasks that must be completed this fall.

This work has been years in the making, as most of you know. The generally smooth yet sometimes lurching process demanded much of the Keystone Working Group and the four Conference Ministers. It also demanded tenacious faith in the reality of God's activity in our lives and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our work. I confess my own faith was tested and at times the emotional toll felt heavy. Yet, here we are! Thank you, good people of Penn Central, for walking this journey with us. Thank you for showing up at Town Halls, asking questions, sending emails, reading updates, praying for us, challenging our assumptions, encouraging us forward, and ultimately, for voting to make it real. I am deeply humbled to be tasked to serve as the TECM and am excited for the new, big Conference reality in January!

**In the meantime, mark your calendars now for our PCC Farewell Celebration Service on Saturday, November 15th (at Colonial Park) at 2:00 p.m. with cake and ice cream to follow! This will be a time of remembrance and thanksgiving for the 60+ years of Penn Central Conference.**

## U.C.C. GLOBAL MINISTRIES SPOTLIGHT

(Thanks to Rev. Ken Trauger for suggesting to Pastor Chris that we share these frequent mission moments we receive from the U.C.C. Global Ministries)

### Mission Moment from the Republic of Congo

*Written by the Republic of Congo and the Mission Moment were written by BAKA Levis Robert, the Church Elder.*



The Disciples of Christ Church of the Congo, Brazzaville (EDCC) launched an English-language service as part of the *New Churches project*, supported through its partnership with Global Ministers. This new service is an effective instrument for the Church, enabling evangelism and worship in English, which provides opportunities for youth development and global engagement.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Reverends Ngoka, Bongonde, Kobele, and Baketa held home services. Notably, services held at the General Secretary and Legal Representative's residence were conducted in English to accommodate the children. Inspired by this experience, the EDCC officially launched the English-language service after the pandemic.





In 2022, church leaders participated in training at the evangelical church, and by March 2024, we had begun offering English language lessons at home.

The future of a Church lies in its youth. In Brazzaville, many children—whether pupils or students—speak both French and some English at home and school. However, services at the Disciples of Christ Church in Congo are traditionally held only in Lingala. This language gap is one of the reasons why many children are drawn to more modern churches.

Currently, we are mentoring 19 active young people and equipping them to become future mentors themselves. Sister Boketsu Baka Kerene stands out—she is advancing rapidly by learning multiple languages, including English and Chinese.



The initial phase of the English-language service faced challenges, including a lack of transportation for children attending training, insufficient materials (such as English Bibles, hymnals, and choir resources), and limited support for trainers. Despite these obstacles, with God's guidance and the support of our partners, we have made significant progress, and we remain confident that we will continue to grow and succeed.

### **Prayer for the Republic of Congo**

Eternal Father, God, Creator of heaven and earth, Master of time and circumstance. We elevate your name above all names because of your greatness and your magnificence, your splendor, your majesty, your glory, and for your eternity.

We bless your holy name for your compassion, kindness, grace, and faithfulness in your love in Jesus Christ. We thank you for all that you do day and night for us.

We take this opportunity to commend our country, Congo, into your hands so that you, through Jesus Christ, grant peace and that the Holy Spirit fills the authorities so that this country will lead according to your will.

We pray for the Congolese people in general and our faithful in particular. Give us faith and help us not worry but seek the kingdom of heaven by believing in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, and the rest will be added to us.

We cannot forget Ukraine, the Middle East, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kinshasa, or any place where the population has lost hope. Lord, grant the peace of Jesus Christ.

We pray to you for evangelization in Congo and for our partners so that we may support your mission.

We pray to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

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*Lancaster*  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

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OCTOBER 19, 2025

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LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

## Lancaster CROP Hunger Walk registration is open

1:00 p.m. Registration

1:30 p.m. Program

2:00 p.m. Walk begins

(Location: Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church)

Please join us in the fight against hunger. The steps we take and funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others through the

**Lancaster Food Hub and Church World Service!**

You can register to walk or support one of our walkers at:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/trinity-east-pete>

**The members of Trinity who have already registered to walk are: Mark & Chris Eyer, Hedwig Hunsicker, and the Rankin Family.**

Pastor Rankin is once again serving as the coordinator of the Lancaster CROP Walk. Thanks to Mark & Chris Eyer for serving as Trinity's coordinators again this year!



## Community Meal

Trinity's community meal at First Reformed at 40 E. Orange St. in Lancaster city will be Tuesday, October 14. Watch for sign-up sheets to include food donations, meal prep and meal serving. Thank you for your continued support!

Thanks,  
Kathy Cooley

### KOINONIA WILL SOON RETURN!

Koinonia (community fellowship) will resume on September 14 at 10 a.m. in Isenberg Hall. Volunteers are asked to provide light refreshments. The drinks/coffee will be taken care of for you! The sign-up sheet is on the kitchen counter. If you have any questions, contact Paula Dennes. We hope you will join us for this time of fellowship between our Sunday School classes and worship!

Pastor Chris will brew a pot of coffee when he arrives in the morning for people to enjoy between the 7:45 service and Sunday School.

Where are you gifted to serve? Mark 10:43b -45 *Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."*

**We need your help with the various ministries of Trinity Church! Please consider serving in one of these ministries!**

 <p><b>Greeter /Ushers Needed</b></p>	 <p><b>NURSERY VOLUNTEERS</b></p>	 <p><b>Called to Care</b></p>
<p>Volunteer as a Greeter/Usher for the 10:30 a.m. service please contact the church office.</p>	<p><b>We need a new coordinator to replace Betty Fogle. We also need more volunteers to serve in the nursery. Contact Pastor Rankin if you are willing to serve in either capacity!</b></p>	<p>The Evangelism Committee oversees the Called to Care Ministry. Meals will be provided for members after they have returned home from the hospital or during other critical situations. <b>We are in need of volunteers to provide meals.</b></p>
 <p><b>Lector</b></p> <p>Assist with the worship service or to just read the scripture lessons at the 7:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Please contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz if you are willing to volunteer.</p>		<p>Another part of this ministry is transportation to appointments. If you need transportation to appointments or worship, please contact the church office. <b>We are in need of volunteers to provide transportation to church!</b> Nancy Enders is the coordinator for July-September. If you are interested in helping with the Called to Care Ministry, speak with Pastor Chris!</p>
 <p><b>ALTAR GUILD</b></p>	<p><b>FLOWER DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</b></p>	
<p>We could use a few more people to help with the weekly responsibilities to prepare the altar for worship. If you are interested, contact Nancy Enders at 717-342-6899 or <a href="mailto:nancyenders@comcast.net">nancyenders@comcast.net</a>.</p>	 <p>Would you like to be on the rotation to pick up the weekly chancel flowers from the florist on Friday mornings? Would you like to deliver the chancel flowers after worship to members of the congregation? If so, contact Pastor Chris or Carol Kratz.</p>	
	<p><b>Working With Children and Youth</b></p>	
	<p>We are in need of leaders to plan activities beyond Sunday School for our teenagers. If you are interested, speak with Bob Kilgore, Sue Bowman, or Pastor Rankin.</p>	

**2025 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS**

Upcoming dates for worship aids are: October 12, November 2, 16, 23, & 30.

Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are October 19, November 30, December 24 & 28. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.



Dates	Greeters	Nursery	Ushers	Lectors	Worship Aids	Money Counters	Flowers
<b>Sept. 7</b>	Beth Bossert, Charlene Cristy	Hedwig Hunsicker, Rachel Baynard	<b>Steve Shenk</b> , Dave Connor, Charlene Cristy, Scott Summers, Hillary Bossert-Davis, Zach Baynard, Karen Olley, Kathy McCarty	Jack Esbenshade/ Steve Gold	Hambrick-Stowe	Ron & Donna Denlinger, Denise Pfeiffer, Steve Shenk, Sue Bowman	Hambrick-Stowe
<b>Sept. 14</b>	Shelley Wagner, Pat Seachrist	Charlene Cristy, Dottie Schadt	<b>Mike Wagner</b> , Shelley Wagner, George DeLong, Anne Rankin, Rachel Baynard, Stan Seachrist, Andrew Rankin, Betty Tyndall	Sandy Morris/ Andrew Rankin	Richards	Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller	Eyer
<b>Sept. 21</b>	Dave Connor, Darlene Zerbe	Betty Fogle, Anne Rankin	<b>Theodore Slechta</b> , Carl Spangler, Kayla Brennan, Dottie Schadt, Gene Kopp, Lon Wible, Dan Otthofer, Beth Bossert	Jeff Hackenberger	Gruber	Diane Rice, Karen Olley, George DeLong, Jodi Keller	Gruber
<b>Sept. 28</b>	Janet Harriger, Kathy McCarty	Jodi Keller, Sandy DeLong	<b>Steve Shenk</b> , Dave Connor, Charlene Cristy, Scott Summers, Hillary Bossert-Davis, Zach Baynard, Karen Olley, Kathy McCarty	Jack Esbenshade/ Ron Denlinger	Gruber	Nevin Cooley, Steve Gold, Pat Sensenig, Jeff Hackenberger	Gruber
<b>Other Ministry Volunteers</b>							
<b>ALTAR GUILD:</b> Sept. 7 & 14 – Anita Rohrer, Charlene Cristy & Hedwig Hunsicker Sept. 21 & 28 – Karen Olley & Beth Bossert				<b>Visitation Minister (Phone Calls/Visits):</b> Donna Geisler <b>Building Trustee:</b> Dave Connor <b>Card Ministry:</b> Children's Sunday School Class <b>Called to Care:</b> Nancy Enders			
<b>TRINITY BREAD:</b> Sept. 7- Charlene Cristy      Sept. 14- Autumn Shenk Sept. 21- Kathy McCarty      Sept. 28- Joan Sensenig				<b>FLOWER PICKUP</b> Sept. 5- Jack & Charlene Cristy      Sept. 12- Cherie Cataldi Sept. 19- Kathy Cooley      Sept. 26- Paula Dennes			



We have great news! Trinity United Church of Christ will be hosting a Life Line Screening event on 10/25/25! Life Line Screening is the premier provider of stroke and cardiovascular disease risk screenings since 1993. Life Line Screening is extending a discounted offer to all Trinity U.C.C. members which will identify your risk level for the following diseases:



1. Carotid Artery Disease
2. Peripheral Arterial Disease
3. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
4. Atrial Fibrillation

**Call 800-324-9458 to schedule your appointment**



# September 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	<b>2</b> Preschool Sneak-A-Peek 6 PM – Tiny Tots & 2 Day 6:30 PM-3 & 4 Day	<b>3</b> Preschool First Day-3 & 4 Day	<b>4</b> Preschool First Day-Tiny tots & 2 Day	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>4-6:30 PM</b> Church Picnic at Rapho Township Park <b>8:00PM</b> Alanon/AA
<b>7 7:45 AM</b> Eucharist <b>9:30 AM</b> Eucharist	<b>8 7:00 PM</b> Choir	<b>9 7:00PM</b> Property Committee— Isenberg Hall/  Pastor- Parish Committee— Choir Room	<b>10 10:00 AM</b> Stewardship Committee— Owens' House  <b>7:00PM</b> Finance Committee	<b>11 10:00 AM</b> Mercersburg Study Group	<b>12 10:00 AM</b> Evangelism Committee	<b>13 8:00PM</b> Alanon/AA <b>1-4 PM</b> Isenberg Hall Reserved-- Richards
<b>14 Rally Day</b> <b>7:45 AM</b> Eucharist <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School Kick-off <b>10:00 AM</b> Koinonia <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship	<b>15 6:00 PM</b> Music Committee <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir <b>8:15 PM</b> Bells	<b>16 1:00PM</b> Prayer Shawl  <b>7:00PM</b> Consistory	<b>17 6:30PM</b> Preschool Parent's Night	<b>18 1:00 PM</b> Pinochle— Isenberg Hall  <b>2:00PM</b> CROP Walk Planning Meeting—Choir Room	<b>19</b>	<b>20 8:30AM</b> Meet in Parking Lot for East Pete Parade <b>10:00 AM</b> Parade starts <b>8:00PM</b> Alanon/AA
<b>21 7:45 AM</b> Eucharist <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 AM</b> Koinonia <b>10:30 AM</b> Eucharist	<b>22 7:00 PM</b> Choir <b>8:15 PM</b> Bells	<b>23</b>	<b>24 7:00PM</b> Executive Committee	<b>25</b>	<b>26 No Preschool</b>	<b>27 8:00PM</b> Alanon/AA
<b>28 I Promise forms received</b> <b>7:45 AM</b> Eucharist <b>9:00 AM</b> Sunday School <b>10:00 AM</b> Koinonia <b>10:30 AM</b> Worship	<b>29 7:00 PM</b> Choir <b>8:15 PM</b> Bells	<b>30</b>				

## 2025 Lutheran Camping Corporation Events

September 27	Party with a Purpose at Kirchenwald
October 5	Capture the Flag at Kirchenwald
October 7-9	Adult Study Retreat at Nawakwa
October 19	Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa
October 26	Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald
November 2	Annual Quilt Auction at Nawakwa
November 7-9	Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa
December 6	Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm
January 2-4, 2026	Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald

**Always check [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org) for the most updated calendar!**



**The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania**  
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm  
PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303  
717-677-8211 • [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org)



**THE PARK CITY DINER**  
884 Plaza Blvd.  
Lancaster, PA 17601  
717-435-8512  
[parkcitydiner.us](http://parkcitydiner.us)

**SHARING OUR SUCCESS**  
**The Knight and Day Diner**  
**The Park City Diner**  
[sosparkcitydiner@gmail.com](mailto:sosparkcitydiner@gmail.com)



**THE KNIGHT AND DAY DINER**  
3140 Lititz Pike  
Lititz, PA. 17543  
717-490-6198  
[knoddiner.com](http://knoddiner.com)

**Every time you eat at our diners you will be making a donation to**

**\*TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST-**  
**East Petersburg\***

**VOTED BEST DINER IN LANCASTER COUNTY 11 YEARS IN A ROW**  
(Lancaster Newspaper Readers' Choice Awards)- 2021  
**TAKE-OUT AND CURBSIDE AT THE ABOVE NUMBERS**

**Before you pay your bill, please mention Trinity United Church of Christ and 10% of your bill will be donated to Trinity.**



# **300th Anniversary Celebration of the First Communion of the German Reformed Church in America**

**October 12th**  
**@ 1:30 pm**  
**Falkner Swamp UCC**  
**2077 Swamp Pike,**  
**Gilbertsville**  
w/ Guest Preacher  
The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia  
Thompson



**October 15th**  
**@ 6:30 pm**  
**each PA UCC**  
**Conference**

will hold a communion  
service within its boundaries  
see website link below

For more information and registration links go to:  
psec.org and click on the 300th Anniversary Celebrations slider

**Historic online presentations @ 7:00 pm via Zoom**

**September 25**—United and Uniting: How the UCC Makes Room for German Reformed and Armenian Evangelical Christians w/ *Rev. Dr. Heather Ohaneson*

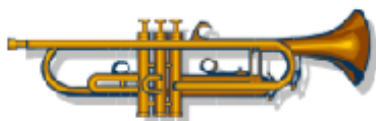
**October 28**—Gifts of the Reformed Church Going Forward w/ *Dr. Randall Zachman*

**Coming  
this fall...**

*A commemorative book with essays tracing the  
development of the German Reformed Church from its  
European origins through present day.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO [HTTPS://PSEC.ORG/300TH-ANNIVERSARY-OF-THE-GERMAN-REFORMED-CHURCH-IN-THE-US/](https://psec.org/300th-anniversary-of-the-german-reformed-church-in-the-us/)**

**NOTE---**The October 12 service is a hybrid event. You do need to register at the website above to indicate if you will attend in-person or virtually (there is limited space in the church to attend in-person).



# QuintEssentially Brass

Sun., Oct. 26, 2025  
Concert 4:00 PM

## Trinity UCC

2340 State St.  
East Petersburg, PA  
(717) 569-1632

[www.TrinityEastPete.org](http://www.TrinityEastPete.org)

**Public Welcome**  
*Freewill Offering Benefits  
Ting Ministries  
And  
Trinity's Ministry of Music*



### Also join us for:

Thanksgiving Eve Service  
Nov. 26th 7:00 PM

Christmas Concert  
Dec. 1st 7:00 PM  
Followed By Desserts



The QuintEssentially Brass have announced that they will be disbanding at the end of 2025! Their concert at Trinity will be one of their final concerts, so you won't want to miss it!



## TRINITY UCC PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

### WELCOME

To the 2025/2026 school year! We couldn't be more excited to meet and greet each one of you! We know there will be nerves and plenty of excitement! Your child's confidence begins with you! Let them know you are certain they can do it! Your child will pick up any sense of uncertainty you might have and needs to know

you're excited for them to have this preschool experience. We will offer your child nurturing, warmth, and caring while they learn, discover, and thrive in a safe environment!

### Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Please follow the car line the whole way around the outside of the parking lot. There will be a cone marking where the first car should stop and wait. At 9:00, the staff will come outside and motion for you to pull up to either the covered door or the lower door depending on the day. Please put your car in park and unlock your door as the teacher approaches your car. The teacher will assist your child in getting out of the car and walk them to the sidewalk. No need for anyone else to get out of the car. Rest assured, your child is in great, experienced hands and even if there are some tears, they will be dried within minutes! If your child has immediate needs (ie the bathroom) please let the teacher know and staff waiting inside will address it.

### Tuition, Paperwork, Notes...,

If you have anything to hand in, please hand it off at drop-off. If this isn't convenient or you forget, the office is open from 9-2. Please park out front, ring the doorbell and Miss Carol can take it from you. Please follow this procedure if you are bringing your child in late, picking your child up early, forget a lunch...,

### School Communication

When calling 569-1632, if you get the answering machine or the line is busy, try calling the second number, 569-0592. Please add these numbers to your contacts in your phone. If no one answers and you want to leave a message, the answering machine is connected to 569-1632. Emailing Miss Amy (Director), [preschool@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:preschool@trinityeastpete.org), during the school day is a great means to communicate. Also, check out our website and join our Facebook page. We will post pictures throughout the week inviting you for a look inside your child's daily routine. This is a great way to get your child talking about their school happenings. This monthly newsletter contains important events, please read monthly and save as a reference. Classroom teachers will send calendars and updates as well.

### BUILDING ACCESS POLICY

To ensure the safety of our children at school, the doors will be locked during the school day. If you would need to enter the building at other times during the school day, please use the doorbell at the front entrance of our building. The church secretary or staff member will let you in at this entrance.

### BACKPACKS

Please make sure your child's name is on their bag. Please make sure your child's bag is the right fit! Check your child's backpack daily. Notes from teachers, reminders, and information about future events are sent home weekly! Also, include a change of clothing for your child just in case. Remember, your child wants to be independent, plan outfits to help them be successful!

All paints we use are water-based (usually tempera) and should wash out with soaking. Paint smocks are always offered to your child, but learning is messy work!





## **SPECIAL DATES**

**Monday, August 25** – Son's Fundraiser meet and greet, 6-9

**Tuesday, September 2** - Sneak-a-Peek (parents with children)

**6:00-6:30** Tiny Tots and 2-Day

**6:30-7:00** 3-Day and 4-Day

**Wednesday, September 3** - First Day of class for 3 Day and 4 Day classes

**Thursday, September 4** - First Day of class for 2 Day

**Thursday, September 4**- First Day of class for Tiny Tots

**Monday, September 15** – Monthly Tuition Due

**Wednesday, September 17**- Parents Night, 6:30 PM (parents only please)

**Friday, September 26** – No School

**A REMINDER:** If your child will be absent or needs to leave early, please let your teacher/director know in writing. Please check in with Miss Carol, at the front entrance, for an early pick up (or late drop off). If someone else will be picking up your child, please notify your teacher/director in writing! Please make sure they have their car seat as well and keep those name placards (we will distribute at the beginning of the year) visible. We truly appreciate your help!

**In Case of SCHOOL CLOSINGS:** We will follow Hempfield School District's delays and closings. If HSD is closed, we are closed. If HSD is delayed, we will follow our modified schedule; 10:30-12:30 and Enrichment 12:30-2:30.

## **CLASS HAPPENINGS:**

**4-DAY CLASS** ([4dayclass@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:4dayclass@trinityeastpete.org)) Ms. Crystal, Ms. Monica and Mrs. Cox

We're excited to kick off another school year of learning, laughter, and new friendships! September will be full of exciting discoveries as we explore our 5 senses, learn about emotions, taste and learn about apples, and have fun with patterns and positional words. Here's to a wonderful school year ahead!

**3-DAY CLASS** ([3dayclass@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:3dayclass@trinityeastpete.org)) Miss Ely, Miss Ashley

There will be so many exciting things to discover—new friends to meet, stories to enjoy, and activities that help us grow and learn. Each day will bring something a little different, and we can't wait to see all the amazing things you'll do. In our classroom, we will learn, play, and take care of one another.

**2-DAY CLASS** ([2dayclass@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:2dayclass@trinityeastpete.org)) Ms. Ely, Ms Ashley

Our classroom will be a place full of curiosity, joy, and growth. We'll spend our days exploring new ideas, building friendships, and creating a strong foundation for learning in a warm and welcoming environment.

**TINY TOTS CLASS** ([Tinytotsclass@trinityeastpete.org](mailto:Tinytotsclass@trinityeastpete.org)) Ms. Crystal, Mrs. Cox

We're so excited to meet all our new friends (and see familiar ones, too)! This month we will explore the shape of a circle, discover all about apples, learn the song "The Wheels on the Bus"~ all while practicing how to be kind and caring friends! Hope you're ready for some fun!

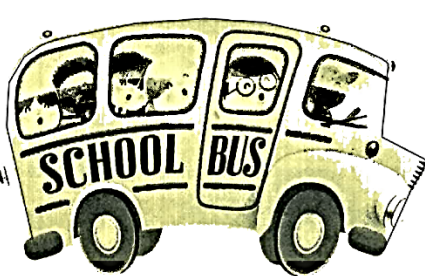
**There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One of these is roots, the other, wings.**  
*Henry Ward Beecher*

# KIDZ-KORNER

## KIDZ-KORNER



## Back to School Scramble



Everything was almost ready to start the new school year but the labels for the classroom got jumbled. Can you unscramble the letters to form the names of 24 things you might find in your classroom? Watch out, one of the objects is formed from two words.

IRCAH \_\_\_\_\_  
 FGAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 BKOENOTO \_\_\_\_\_  
 CDLNARAE \_\_\_\_\_  
 REEARS \_\_\_\_\_  
 LSARTPE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EGLU \_\_\_\_\_  
 IRFLEAAMR \_\_\_\_\_  
 CNLEPI \_\_\_\_\_  
 KSED \_\_\_\_\_  
 OASOCBEK \_\_\_\_\_  
 TXOKBTOE \_\_\_\_\_

CRTOLUALCA \_\_\_\_\_  
 RRAMEK \_\_\_\_\_  
 KACKCBAP \_\_\_\_\_  
 ROSSSICS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CKALH \_\_\_\_\_  
 OLCKC \_\_\_\_\_  
 CATEEHR \_\_\_\_\_  
 MSOACPS \_\_\_\_\_  
 ENDUSTT \_\_\_\_\_  
 GLEBO \_\_\_\_\_  
 NIBDRE \_\_\_\_\_  
 APPRE \_\_\_\_\_



WORD BANK: BACKPACK, BINDER, BOOKCASE, CALCULATOR, CALENDAR, CHAIR, CHALK, CLOCK, COMPASS, DESK, ERASER, FIRE ALARM, FLAG, GLOBE, GLUE, MARKER, NOTEBOOK, PAPER, PENCIL, SCISSORS, STAPLER, STUDENT, TEACHER, TEXTBOOK



Trinity U.C.C.  
2340 State Street  
East Petersburg, PA 17520